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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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April 16, 1996

UM LAW PROFESSOR APPOINTED TO NATIONAL OFFICE

MISSOULA --

A University of Montana School of Law professor has been appointed deputy director of the Association of American Law Schools, an organization that promotes legal education.

Bari Burke will take a two-year unpaid professional leave of absence from the UM School of Law to work at the Washington, D.C., office of the association that serves as a membership and service organization for the nation's 176 law schools. Burke was appointed to the two-year rotating position by the association's executive director.

The association plans and presents professional development workshops and conferences for law school faculty and offers standing and special committees to help law schools with a variety of needs. AALS sponsors an annual meeting that is attended by more than 3,000 law educators and publishes an annual directory of law school faculty for networking purposes.

Jack Mudd, who served on AALS committees while he was UM's law school dean in the 1980s, said Burke's appointment marks the first time a UM law faculty member has held a staff position in the national association.

"The appointment is a real tribute to Bari," said Mudd, a partner in the Missoula law firm of Garlington, Lohn and Robinson. "What this says is that the association's director has confidence that Bari can work effectively in a leadership role with law deans and committees around the country."

-more-

A 1979 graduate of the University of California at Davis Law School, Burke taught at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles for two years before joining the UM School of Law faculty in 1981. She directs UM's legal writing program and teaches classes in legal writing, gender and the law, and children and the law. Burke is leading the Women's Studies Program this academic year while its full-time director, Julia Watson, is on sabbatical.

Burke said she intends to return to teaching at UM when her AALS appointment expires.

"I'm really looking forward to coming home and I haven't left yet," Burke said. "I love what I do here, but I look forward to learning all sorts of things about legal education, then coming home and sharing what I've found out."

Burke is married to UM philosophy Professor Tom Huff.

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